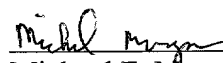


REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1 and 3-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-16 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. New claims 17-25 add no new matter, as these claims contain subject matter deleted from the amended claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the preliminary amendment.

Respectfully Submitted,



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**Binder mixtures and their use in coating materials
curable thermally and/or with actinic radiation**

The present invention relates to novel binder mixtures
5 and to their use in coating materials or as coating
materials which are curable thermally and/or with
actinic radiation. The present invention further
relates to the novel coating materials which comprise
or consist of the novel binder mixtures, and to their
10 use for automotive OEM finishing, automotive refinish,
industrial coating, including coil coating and
container coating, the coating of plastics, and
furniture coating. The invention further relates to a
novel process for coating substrates which uses the
15 novel coating materials, and also to the substrates
thus coated.

Coating materials curable with actinic radiation,
especially with UV radiation, and in liquid form or in
20 the form of powder coating materials are increasingly
gaining significance for reasons of reduced solvent use
and are increasingly being put to new end uses. A
principal problem with the known UV-curable coating
materials, however, is the surface inhibition of curing
25 by atmospheric oxygen. This inhibition must be
compensated by using UV lamps with a high energy
density and by accelerating the cure using amine
coinitiators. These amines, however, frequently lead to

instances of odor nuisance, and may result in unwanted discoloration of the coatings.

In the case of UV powder coating materials, further
5 problems arise from the contradictory requirements for
good blocking resistance of the powders on storage and
good leveling of the melted coating film. For good
blocking resistance, the glass transition temperature
and melting point should be as high as possible; for
10 good leveling and for use on heat-sensitive substrates,
however, they should be as low as possible, in order to
prevent a curing reaction before an optimum surface
smoothness has developed, and in order to prevent
damage to the substrate. For improving the surface
15 smoothness, moreover, the melt should also have a low
viscosity, and the reaction should set in only after a
delay. However, such a profile of properties is
difficult to realize with powder coating materials
curable by means of heat alone, whose curing is - as is
20 known - based on a thermally activated reaction between
binder and crosslinking agent, e.g., between a
polyepoxy resin and a dicarboxylic acid, since
simultaneous with the melting process there is a
viscosity-raising crosslinking reaction. In the case of
25 powder coating materials curable with actinic
radiation, on the other hand, it ought to be possible